

Since its inception, the Second Chance Act has resulted in more than 800 grant awards in 49 states and the District of Columbia to government agencies and nonprofits for reentry programming designed to provide services that can help reduce recidivism and increase public safety.

The data shows that this investment in our returning population lowers recidivism, saves money and reduces crime.

Nearly one out of three Second Chance Act grantees is a community or faith-based organization and includes funding for federal programs through the Bureau of Prisons. The data shows that this investment in our returning population lowers recidivism, saves money and reduces crime.

The Second Chance Act has been a success and its reauthorization was an essential part of any meaningful criminal justice reform effort. Through grants, the Second Chance Act encourages the development of evidence-based reentry programming to improve outcomes for those returning to families and communities.

Grantees provide vital resources, including employment training, drug treatment, family programming, and so much more.

Reauthorization had broad bipartisan support in Congress and from nearly 700 organizations across the political spectrum.

The Second Chance Act has played an important role in the impressive advances Texas has made over the last decade in criminal justice and juvenile justice reform.

Texas has received over 28 Second Chance Act grant awards to date, totaling over \$11,932,289.

One recipient, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, has used it to provide family-focused reentry services and comprehensive case management to gang-affiliated youth.

The City of Dallas used its funding to support a program for women who have a substance abuse diagnosis and are pregnant or have children who are 5 and under.

The women received comprehensive family-based support and co-occurring substance use and mental health services on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

This change is especially significant because the fastest growing segment of inmates are those age 50 and older, and they cost far more.

As an original co-sponsor of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2017, I am very proud to have played a part in the development of the Federal Prisoner Reentry Initiative for our citizens over 60 years old.

For the previous several Congresses, I introduced the Federal Prison Bureau Relief Act to amend the federal criminal code to require the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to release early an offender who has completed at least half of his or her prison sentence if such offender has:

- (1) attained age 45,
- (2) committed no violent offenses, and
- (3) received no institutional disciplinary violations.

The bill modified provisions related to computation of a federal prisoner's good time credit.

Specifically, it allowed an eligible federal prisoner to earn a maximum good time credit of 54 days per year of the sentence imposed (instead of 54 days per year of the sentence actually served).

It also permitted the Bureau of Prisons to restore good time credit previously denied, based on a prisoner maintaining good behavior.

These modifications applied to an ongoing prison sentence imposed on or after November 1, 1987.

A bipartisan consensus is developing across this country in support of such a policy.

Allowing this group of nonviolent offenders to go home to their families is both beneficial to the inmates as well as in the best interest of the United States.

There is a continuing need for re-entry programs.

Due to the dramatic growth in the size of the prison population, the issue of prisoner reentry has emerged as one of the most critical and complex dilemmas facing the American criminal justice system.

The United States is the world's leader in incarceration.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative Mass Incarceration, the American criminal justice system holds almost:

2.3 million people in 1,719 state prisons, 109 federal prisons,

1,772 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,163 local jails, and

80 Indian Country jails as well as in military prisons, immigration detention facilities, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories.

These trends resulted in prison overcrowding despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not the most effective means of public safety.

The result was that an incredibly low number of prisoners over 60 years of age were released to home confinement under the pilot program.

Passing H.R. 4018 will not fix the entire criminal justice system, but it is another important step in our effort to make it a more just and humane system for our elderly non-violent offenders with reentry into our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE FRISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with my fellow Texas Congressman, Dr. BURGESS, to congratulate the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on earning a 5-Star Accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Frisco is home to some of the most innovative and booming businesses in Texas and throughout the entire country. Partnering with approximately 1,300 member businesses who represent more than 75,000 employees, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond to provide the business community with a powerful voice through its advocacy efforts and partnerships.

The Frisco Chamber received the highest accreditation awarded by the U.S. Chamber as a result of their effective organizational procedures and community involvement. After earning this accreditation, the Frisco Chamber is now among the top two percent of Chambers in the nation to receive this Prestigious designation.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on this tremendous achievement.

RECOGNIZING DAVID HOBBS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Rep. MIKE TURNER of Ohio, I rise to recognize David Hobbs, the Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He will step down from his position on December 31, 2019 after decades of stellar service to the Assembly and to the national parliaments of all NATO countries, including the United States Congress.

David Hobbs took up his post as Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in January 2008, following his election by the heads of national delegations to that body. He had previously served on the Assembly's staff for many years and drew on this long experience to help transform the institution.

David Hobbs holds degrees in physics and defense from Manchester University and King's College in London. After working in the UK civil service and the private sector, he joined Aberdeen University's Centre for Defence Studies, where he published studies on nuclear forces and policy. His expertise gave him unique insight not only into the conduct of the Cold War, but also informed his understanding of the strategies Western allies followed to ultimately prevail in it.

David Hobbs joined the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in 1983 as Director of its Science and Technology Committee. In 1987, he assumed additional responsibilities as Director of Committees and Studies and was tasked with coordinating the work of all five of the Assembly's Committees.

Mr. Hobbs played a central role in driving the Assembly's adaptation following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and ensuring that national parliaments and their members helped forge a new security order that placed democratic values at its very core. It was at this time that the Assembly began to reach out to the new parliaments of former Communist countries to assist in their democratic development. David Hobbs was part of a team that established a set of conferences and training programmes, including the Rose-Roth Seminars named after late Senator Bill Roth and Congressman Charlie Rose, which worked with parliamentarians from Europe's new democracies on security sector reform, parliamentary oversight, and preparation for membership in NATO itself.

Mr. Hobbs was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in November 1997.

In addition to his responsibilities at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, from 1996 to 2007 David Hobbs served as the Chairman of the Euro-Atlantic Foundation, an NGO which provided computing and I.T. assistance to parliaments in Central and Eastern Europe. From 1993 to 2005, he was a member of the research advisory council of the Chemical and